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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

International Application No.: PCT/DE96/00598
International Filing Date: 29 March 1996
Inventors: Puttkammer et al.
For: Method and Apparatus for Checking Security Documents

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30 August 1997

Hon.
Assistant Commissioner
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Box PCT
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**Preliminary Amendment Before
Claims Fee Calculation**

Sir:

In order to avoid certain excess claims fees otherwise due pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.492(d) and to put their specification into a form believed to be appropriate under U.S. Patent Practice, Applicants courteously request that the following preliminary amendment be entered into the English translation of their specification and claims as amended before the International Preliminary Examining Authority.

In the Specification:

Page 1, between lines 2 & 3: insert --BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION.--;
page 4, between lines 19 & 20: insert --TASK OF THE INVENTION.--;
page 5, between lines 15 & 16: insert --BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE